

Admittedly, everyone wants to feel beautiful and we Black women have had to, and continue to, struggle against the media promotions of what beautiful women are supposed to look like in this world.

After years of indoctrination to the contrary, most of us have finally accepted that indeed we too are beau-

...a bit more than they need to be. Exposure, relation of womanhood, yes. But, development of self-esteem? A resounding NO! And, by the way, support for a new Black business venture? Definitely! When next I need new lingerie, I know who to call.

EVIDENCE OF SYSTEMIC RACISM

Call for federal inquiry

Editor:

The recent coroner's inquest conclusion regarding the shooting death of Tommy Barnett, the court decision in respect to the death of Kenneth Allen, and the guilty plea of two Police officers who planted crack cocaine on two Black suspects to obtain a conviction in court are clear evidence of systemic racism in the criminal justice system of Ontario.

The decision reminds us of the acquittal of police officers who caused the unnecessary deaths of Buddy Evans, Albert Johnson, Lester Donaldson, Michael Wade Lawson, Raymond Lawrence, Ian Coley, Albert Moses, Wayne Williams and many others who were fatally shot by Metro Toronto Police officers.

The police officers, who pleaded guilty to planting drugs on Black suspects, were given six-month jail sentences, to be served on weekends. It seems that these police officers are still on the police force after their conviction and are still on the public payroll. No thought has been given to the launching of an investigation into the conduct of these two officers and the past arrests that they made involving the (possible) planting of drugs on other suspects to obtain convictions. The implication is that there may be many innocent Black youth now serving long jail sentences because of these police officers' dishonesty.

The acquittal of the police officer charged in the custody death of Allen is very disturbing. It seems clear from the videotape evidence that the police officer charged in that death placed his night stick under Allen's neck and dragged him along the floor of the police station resulting in Mr. Allen's death. His action was cruel, brutal and unjustifiable. The jury's "Not Guilty" verdict was unjust, racist and an affront to the fundamental principles of natural justice. This verdict should be automatically appealed by the Government of Ontario.

The recent actions of the police, the courts, the Coroner's Court and the criminal justice system in general clearly indicate that the escalation of racism has reached a very serious and unacceptable level in this province and indeed, in this country.

It is in this context that the Black Action Defense Committee is reiterating its urgent call for the Federal government to immediately appoint a Royal Commission into the shooting deaths by officers from various police forces in Canada of Blacks and other People of Colour.

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